

June 17, 2015

**My mom is now a U.S. citizen! Does this change things for me?**

*Q: My mom filed an immigrant petition for me a few years ago while she was a resident. She was told that the petition was approved but that I needed to wait until my case was current for it to be sent to the Embassy. However, my mom is now a U.S. citizen. I have heard that processing times for petitions are different based on whether the petition was filed by a resident green card holder or by a citizen. Is this true? Does this mean my interview date or processing time will change?*

A: Both U.S. citizens and green card holders (Legal Permanent Residents) can file petitions on behalf of their family members. Processing times can vary based upon a number of factors. Generally speaking, petitions filed by U.S. citizens are processed in a shorter time frame. Keep in mind that age and marital status can also influence the amount of time it takes to process a case. A great place to start is U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). All immigrant petitions are sent there. You can check on your case by visiting their website: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

- Click on Check your Case Status
- At Case Online Status enter your receipt number which you can find on notices of action USCIS has sent you.

Once a petition is approved it is sent to the National Visa Center (NVC) where it remains until it is sent to the Embassy for an interview. Your mom should make a copy of her naturalization certificate and mail it to NVC to inform them of her naturalization. NVC will make any necessary changes to your filing status.

Visit the NVC website for more about processing time and contact information:

<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/immigrate/nvc.html>

Another great place to check on processing times is found at:

<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/immigrate.html>

Here you can visit the Visa Bulletin located at the bottom of the page. Visa Bulletins are the only official documents about the availability of immigrant visa numbers.

We look forward to meeting you during your interview and understand how important it is for families to be reunited.

You can find more information about how to travel to the U.S. on our website, [www.kingston.usembassy.gov](http://www.kingston.usembassy.gov) and the website of our authorized service provider at [www.usvisa-info.com](http://www.usvisa-info.com). Keep on top of Embassy news on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/pages/US-Embassy-Jamaica](https://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Embassy-Jamaica) and by following @USEmbassyJA on Twitter. We also answer general visa questions on our Facebook and Twitter pages.